

AEAJ 384/ AHIS 384

History of Japan I

Fall 2009

Course #28668

Instructor: Dr. David Eason
Class Meetings: MWF 1:40-2:35pm, Social Sciences Room #116
Office Hours: MWF 11:30-12:30pm and by appointment
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Overview

This course offers a survey of Japanese history from the time of the earliest known human settlements on the archipelago during the Paleolithic Era up until the end of the so-called “Age of the Warring States” circa 1600. We will focus on a number of the major social, economic, institutional, and cultural developments that took place during this extended period, with a particular emphasis on the creation of a centralized government and the subsequently gradual, uneven transition from courtier to warrior rule that ultimately followed.

In addition, students in this course are expected to learn not only about Japan, but also about what it means to actively engage in the study of history. To this end we will regularly draw upon a wide variety of translated primary sources in our classroom discussions, and participants will be required to closely analyze these materials and to consider their historical significance in light of the course’s larger themes. Thus, one of the overriding goals of this course is for students to develop and hone their reading and writing skills and to come away from this class with the recognition that a truly engaged study of history involves far more than simply memorizing the contents of a textbook in

order to recite series of seemingly obscure names, dates, and events; rather, the study of history means thinking carefully and critically about the evidence used to make sense of the past.

Required Texts (Available for Purchase at the Campus Bookstore)

Hane, Mikiso. *Premodern Japan: A Historical Survey*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1991.

Sei Shōnagon. *The Pillow Book*. Translated by Meredith McKinney. London: Penguin Books, 2006.

DeBary, WM. Theodore, Donald Keene, George Tanabe, and Paul Varley. *Sources of Japanese Tradition: From Earliest Times to 1600 – Volume 1*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2001.

- Please note that all other required readings will be made available online via the library's Electronic Reserve (ERes).

General Education Credit

This course fulfills the general education category for **Regions Beyond Europe**: Such courses “focus on specific cultures (other than those of the United States and Europe) or the world’s regions. Courses emphasize the features and processes whereby cultures and regions gain their specific identity. Approved courses will offer an explicitly historical organization, and will balance topic focus with chronological breadth. Courses may also engage students in considerations of the ‘local’ as opposed to the ‘global.’”

Course Requirements

Class Participation	–	10%
In-Class Quizzes (4)	–	5%
Map Quiz	–	5%
Paper #1 (5-6 pages)	–	15%

-- Due 10/16/2009 --

In-Class Midterm	–	20%
Paper #2 (5-7 pages)	–	20%
<i>-- Due 12/04/2009 --</i>		
In-Class Final	–	25%

- Note that attendance is mandatory and will be taken on a regular basis. Four short reading quizzes will be given over the course of the semester on assigned materials other than the textbook. Please be aware that neither quizzes nor participation credit can be made up in the case of an unexcused absence.

Grading Policies and Guidelines

1) Letter grades are assigned in accordance with the following scale:

93-100=A; 92-90=A-; 87-89=B+; 83-86=B; 80-82=B-; 77-79=C+; 73-76=C;
70-72=C-; 67-69=D+; 63-66=D; 60-62=D-; 0-59=E.

Work not turned in will be counted as a zero (0).

2) Late papers will be marked down a grade for each day late (ie. an “A” paper turned in two days late will become a “B+”).

3) There is no extra credit offered for this course. Do not ask me for any.

4) “Incompletes” will only be given in the case of an emergency (sudden death in the family, serious illness) and require thorough documentation.

5) Plagiarism is a serious offense. Students who use the words and ideas of others in their written work without providing citations to the original source (s) will be given a zero (0) for the assignment along with a copy of an official “Violation of Academic Integrity Report” to be sent to the Chair of the Department of East Asian Studies, the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and the Vice-Provost for Undergraduate Affairs. If you have any doubts concerning what constitutes plagiarism you are to consult with me BEFORE submitting an assignment. For more information concerning the University’s policies in regards to plagiarism and academic dishonesty in general, see the University at Albany Undergraduate Academic Regulations located on the web at – http://www.albany.edu/undergraduate_bulletin/regulations.html for further details.

Class Schedule

- All assigned readings are listed on the right-hand side of the schedule below. “Documents” refer to various translated primary sources that will be discussed in class. In addition to those contained in Volume 1 of *Sources of Japanese Tradition* (DeBary, et al.), there will also be a number of handouts distributed in class and available for viewing via Electronic Reserve (ERes).

ⓔ indicates readings available through the library’s Electronic Reserve

Week #1		Themes	Documents	Readings
8/31	Mon.	Introductions		
9/2	Wed.	Geography		Hane, pp. 5-14
9/4	Fri.	Ancient Archaeology	Handout #1	ⓔ Imamura, pp. 1-17
Week #2		Themes	Documents	Readings
9/7	Mon.	No Class		
9/9	Wed.	Jōmon	Handout #2	Hane, pp. 15-24
9/11	Fri.	Yayoi { Map Quiz }	DeBary, 6-8	ⓔ Farris, pp. 9-54
Week #3		Themes	Documents	Readings
9/14	Mon.	Continental Influences	DeBary, 72-74	Hane, pp. 15-43
9/16	Wed.	Shōtoku Taishi	DeBary, 51-55	DeBary, pp. 40-55
9/18	Fri.	Chinese Institutions	DeBary, 77-79	ⓔ Piggott, pp. 102-126
Week #4		Themes	Documents	Readings
9/21	Mon.	In Search of a Capital	Handout #3	Hane, pp. 44-54
9/23	Wed.	Beyond Nara Buddhism	DeBary, 148-49	DeBary, pp. 125-133
9/25	Fri.	The Heian Period	Handout #4	<i>Pillow Book</i> , pp. 3-90

Week #5	Themes	Documents	Readings
9/28 Mon.	No Class		
9/30 Wed.	Courtiers and Officials	Handout #5	<i>Pillow Book</i> , pp. 91-184
10/2 Fri.	Connections at Court	DeBary, 203-204	
Week #6	Themes	Documents	Readings
10/5 Mon.	Art and Politics		
10/7 Wed.	The Shōen	Handout #6	<i>Pillow Book</i> , pp. 185-256
10/9 Fri.	Provincial Problems 1	Handout #7	Hane, pp. 54-57
Week #7	Themes	Documents	Readings
10/12 Mon.	The Fujiwara	DeBary, 243-44	
10/14 Wed.	Provincial Problems 2		Ⓔ Von Verschuer, pp. 305-328
10/16 Fri.	The Insei {1st Paper Due}		
Week #8	Themes	Documents	Readings
10/19 Mon.	Hōgen and Heiji	DeBary, 270-72	Hane, pp. 57-60
10/21 Wed.	Review		
10/23 Fri.	Midterm Exam		
Week #9	Themes	Documents	Readings
10/26 Mon.	Rise of the Samurai	DeBary, 272-75	Ⓔ Varley, pp. 46-77
10/28 Wed.	The Genpei War	Handout #8	Ⓔ Friday, pp. 135-163
10/30 Fri.	The Kamakura Bakufu	DeBary, 413-17	Hane, pp. 61-69
Week #10	Themes	Documents	Readings

11/2	Mon.	Law and Administration	Handout #9	Ⓔ Kasamatsu, pp. 1-13
11/4	Wed.	Kamakura Buddhism	DeBary, 228-29	Ⓔ Tanabe, pp. 43-54
11/6	Fri.	The Mongol Invasions	DeBary, 282-83	Hane, pp. 69-85
Week #11				
		Themes	Documents	Readings
11/9	Mon.	The Kenmu Restoration	DeBary, 262-64	Hane, pp. 86-90
11/11	Wed.	Warfare in the 1300s		Ⓔ Conlan, pp. 12-47
11/13	Fri.	The Muromachi Bakufu	Handout #10	
Week #12				
		Themes	Documents	Readings
11/16	Mon.	Kitayama Culture	DeBary, 379-380	Hane, pp. 102-110
11/18	Wed.	The Ōnin War	Handout #11	Ⓔ Hurst, pp. 209-233
11/20	Fri.	Center and Periphery		
Week #13				
		Themes	Documents	Readings
11/23	Mon.	*Choose a Daimyo* Day		Hane, pp. 90-102; Ⓔ Hall, pp. 317-329
11/25	Wed.	No Class		
11/27	Fri.	No Class		
Week #14				
		Themes	Documents	Readings
11/30	Mon.	New Authorities	Handout #12	
12/2	Wed.	The “Three Unifiers”	DeBary, 451-452	Hane, pp. 111-129
12/4	Fri.	Sekigahara and After	DeBary, 459-460	
{Second Paper Due}				
Week #15				
		Themes	Documents	Readings
12/7	Mon.	Review		

** The **Final Exam** will take place in our regular classroom on Wednesday, December 16, 2009 from 8:00 to 10:00am.